

Announcement of an effort to restore water quality in Chestnut Creek in Carroll County, Grayson County and Galax, Virginia

PUBLIC MEETING: Galax-Carroll Regional Library, at 610 W Stuart Drive in Galax, Virginia, on January 30, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment and announce a public meeting on a water quality improvement study by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for Chestnut Creek in Galax and Carroll and Grayson Counties

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meeting on a study to restore water quality

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: DEQ is working to identify pollutants that impair aquatic organisms and sources of bacteria contamination in the waters of Chestnut Creek that flows through Galax, and parts of Grayson County and Carroll County Virginia. The bacteria contamination exceeds water quality standards, which prohibits the recreational use.

The lower 14 miles of Chestnut Creek, from the Galax raw water intake near the city limits is impaired for both aquatic life use and for the recreational use due to bacteria violations. The upper 3.68 miles beginning at the confluence between Coal Creek and Chestnut Creek downstream to the raw water intake is "impaired" for bacteria violations. The stream is impaired for failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms and failure to meet the *Recreational Use* because of fecal coliform and e.coli. bacteria violations.

The study reports the pollutants impairing the aquatic community and develops total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. The study also reports the sources of bacteria contamination and develops a TMDL for bacteria. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes a public comment period, including public meetings. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, January 30 to February 28, 2006. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report on the impaired waters is available after January 9, 2006 from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Nancy T. Norton, P.E. – Regional TMDL Coordinator

Address: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality-Southwest Regional Office, 355

Deadmore Street, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia, 24212-1688

Phone: (276) 676-4807 E-mail: ntnorton@deq.virginia.gov Fax: (276) 676-4899